## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 VO-05 INSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 HEW-04 /060 W

-----114614 221117Z/21

R 220915Z FEB 78

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6514

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, PEPR, TW

SUBJECT: INDOCHINESE REFUGEES - VISIT BY IRC COMMISSION

REF: STATE 022656 (NOTAL)

1. IRC VISIT WAS USEFUL IN UNDERLINING EXTENT OF AMERICAN PUBLIC AND CONGRESSIONAL CONCERN FOR INDOCHINESE REFUGEES AND DESIRE THAT MORE COUNTRIES DO MORE TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM. IN CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER AND W AMBASSADOR'S LUNCHEON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MEETING WITH A NUMBER OF OTHER CONCERNED OFFICIALS (INCLUDING FRED CH'IEN, WANG SHENG AND CH'ENG WEI-YUAN), VISITORS AND AMBASSADOR EMPHASIZED NEED FOR MORE COUNTRIES, AND SPECIFICALLY THE ROC, TO BE MORE ACCOMMODATING OF TRANSIENT REFUGEES, AND TO OFFER MORE PERMANENT RESETTLEMENT OPPORTUNITIES, PARTICULARLY TO ETHNIC CHINESE REFUGEES. IN THIS WAY, NO ONE COUNTRY'S BURDEN WOULD BE TOO GREAT.

- 2. GROC OFFICIALS WERE GUARDED IN THEIR RESPONSES TO IRC SUGGESTIONS, BUT CLEARLY WISHED TO APPEAR SYMPATHETIC AND FORTHCOMING. MINISTER SHEN EMPHASIZED THAT GROC WAS DOING ITS PART AND HAD "RESCUED, ASSISTED OR RESETTLED" 6,985 INDO-CHINESE REFUGEES SINCE APRIL 1975 (PRESUMABLY THIS FIGURE INCLUDES THOSE PICKED UP AND THEN SENT ON THEIR WAY). SHEN ALSO CLAIMED THE ROC HAD RESETTLED 163,302 CHINESE MAINLAND REFUGEES SINCE 1950. SHEN ALSO SAID THAT HE WAS TAKING PERSONAL CHARGE OF FORMULATING AN INTER-MINISTERIAL RESPONSE WHICH SHOULD BE AVAILABLE TO US IN ABOUT A WEEK TO AMBASSADOR UNGER'S JANUARY 30 DEMARCHE BUT HE COULD NOT SAY WHAT THE OUTCOME WOULD BE. OFFICIALS CLEARLY OFFERED MORE HOPE FOR GROC RESPONSIVENESS ON THE ISSUE OF TRANSIENT REFUGEES THAN ON THE ISSUE OF PERMANENT RESETTLEMENT HERE. SEVERAL OFFICIALS MENTIONED THE SECURITY PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN SUCH RESETTLEMENT. WHEN MR. CASEY ASKED AT THE CLOSE OF THEIR MEETING WHETHER, WHEN THE COMMISSION MAKES ITS REPORT TO CONGRESS, IT COULD MENTION THAT THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA INTENDS TO DO ITS PART, MINISTER SHEN IMPLIED HIS ASSENT, ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT MAKE A UPECIFIC RESPONSE.
- 3. EMBASSY WILL MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER ACTION ON REFUGEE ISSUE SEPTEL. UNGER

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## Message Attributes

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